

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/722,508

Examiner

Taghi T. Arani

Applicant(s)

LUNT ET AL.

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/01/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,5-10,12 and 14-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Taghi T. Arani
Primary Examiner
PTOL 2131
3/19/06

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35 U.S. Code not included in this section can be found in the prior office action.
2. The prior office actions are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the observations with respect to claim language, and response to previously presented arguments.
3. Claims 2, 4, 11 and 13 have been cancelled.
4. Claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 have been amended.
5. Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, 14-17, now re-numbered as claims 1-13 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel A. Tanner, III on 5/8/2006.

Claims 2 and 11 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 have been replaced with:

1. (Currently Amended) A document forgery protection printing method, comprising:

processing an image of a document;

determining forgery protection requirements for the document to be printed using a print management system and a computerized policy stored on a computer

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device to collect information about the document and to use the collected information in determining forgery protection requirements;

determining a protection level to be applied to the document based on the determined forgery protection requirements;

selecting a printer from a plurality of printers that can print the document; and based on the determined protection level, printing at least one watermark on the document that corresponds to the determined protection level using the selected printer, wherein determining the forgery protection requirements includes displaying information about forgery techniques and using the displayed information in determining the forgery protection requirements to be applied to the document.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 3, wherein displaying information further includes displaying information about forgery techniques each protection level is able to at least one of detect and deter and information about costs of using each protection level.

10. (Currently Amended) A document forgery protection printing system, comprising:
at least one server having a print management system and storing a policy that determines forgery protection requirements and a forgery protection level for the document;

at least one image processor that processes an image of the document;

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a display device, the at least one server and the at least one image processor driving the display device to display information about forgery techniques and using the displayed information in determining forgery protection requirements for the document;

a plurality of printers, each printer able to print the document and able to apply at least one protection level to the document by printing at least one watermark on the document that corresponds to the determined protection level, wherein the policy collects information about the document and determines the protection level for the document based on information collected.

12. (Currently Amended) The document forgery protection printing system of claim [11] 10, wherein the displayed information includes information about forgery techniques each protection level is able to at least one of detect and deter and information about costs of using each protection level.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments file 03/01/2006 in view of the above Examiner's Amendment have been fully considered and they are persuasive.

Allowable Subject matter

8. Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, 14-17 are allowed over prior art of record.

Conclusion

Prior arts made of record, not relied upon:

US patent 4,435,834 to Pauli et al. is directed to method and means for determining the state and/or genuineness of flat articles, in particular bank-notes.

US patent 6,237,096 to Bisbee et al. implements digital signing and/or encryption for the electronic transmission, storage, and retrieval of authenticated documents enabling establishment of the identity of the originator of the electronic document.

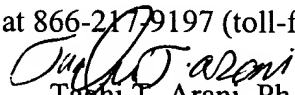
US patent 6,980,668 to discloses an information processing apparatus comprising a discrimination means for discriminating a process, in which an electronic watermark is to be applied to data that is to be registered.

Pititcolas et al., Information Hiding-A Survey, PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE, VOL. 87, NO. 7. July 1999, pages 1062-1078

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taghi T. Arani whose telephone number is (571) 272-3787. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30 Mon-Fri.

If an tempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Taghi T. Arani, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2131
05/09/2006